

[0025] FIG. 2A is a sectional view of a single FEGV airfoil;
 [0026] FIG. 2B is a sectional view of the FEGV illustrated in FIG. 2A shown in a first position;
 [0027] FIG. 2C is a sectional view of the FEGV illustrated in FIG. 2A shown in a rotated position;
 [0028] FIG. 3A is a sectional view of another embodiment of a single FEGV airfoil;
 [0029] FIG. 3B is a sectional view of the FEGV illustrated in FIG. 3A shown in a first position;
 [0030] FIG. 3C is a sectional view of the FEGV illustrated in FIG. 3A shown in a rotated position;
 [0031] FIG. 4A is a sectional view of another embodiment of a single FEGV slatted airfoil with a;
 [0032] FIG. 4B is a sectional view of the FEGV illustrated in FIG. 4A shown in a first position; and
 [0033] FIG. 4C is a sectional view of the FEGV illustrated in FIG. 4A shown in a rotated position.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[0034] FIG. 1 illustrates a general partial fragmentary schematic view of a gas turbofan engine 10 suspended from an engine pylon P within an engine nacelle assembly N as is typical of an aircraft designed for subsonic operation.

[0035] The turbofan engine 10 includes a core section within a core nacelle 12 that houses a low spool 14 and high spool 24. The low spool 14 includes a low pressure compressor 16 and low pressure turbine 18. The low spool 14 drives a fan section 20 directly or through a gear train 22. The high spool 24 includes a high pressure compressor 26 and high pressure turbine 28. A combustor 30 is arranged between the high pressure compressor 26 and high pressure turbine 28. The low and high spools 14, 24 rotate about an engine axis of rotation A.

[0036] The engine 10 in the disclosed embodiment is a high-bypass geared turbofan aircraft engine in which the engine 10 bypass ratio is greater than ten (10), the turbofan diameter is significantly larger than that of the low pressure compressor 16, and the low pressure turbine 18 has a pressure, or expansion, ratio greater than five (5). The gear train 22 may be an epicycle gear train such as a planetary gear system or other gear system with a gear reduction ratio of greater than 2.5. It should be understood, however, that the above parameters are exemplary of only one geared turbofan engine and that the present invention is likewise applicable to other gas turbine engines including direct drive turbofans.

[0037] Airflow enters a fan nacelle 34, which may at least partially surrounds the core nacelle 12. The fan section 20 communicates airflow into the core nacelle 12 for compression by the low pressure compressor 16 and the high pressure compressor 26. Core airflow compressed by the low pressure compressor 16 and the high pressure compressor 26 is mixed with the fuel in the combustor 30 then expanded over the high pressure turbine 28 and low pressure turbine 18. The turbines 28, 18 are coupled for rotation with respective spools 24, 14 to rotationally drive the compressors 26, 16 and, through the gear train 22, the fan section 20 in response to the expansion. A core engine exhaust E exits the core nacelle 12 through a core nozzle 43 defined between the core nacelle 12 and a tail cone 32.

[0038] A bypass flow path 40 is defined between the core nacelle 12 and the fan nacelle 34. The engine 10 generates a high bypass flow arrangement with a bypass ratio in which approximately 80 percent of the airflow entering the fan nacelle 34 becomes bypass flow B. The bypass flow B com-

municates through the generally annular bypass flow path 40 and may be discharged from the engine 10 through a fan variable area nozzle (FVAN) 42 which defines a variable fan nozzle exit area 44 between the fan nacelle 34 and the core nacelle 12 at an aft segment 34S of the fan nacelle 34 downstream of the fan section 20.

[0039] Referring to FIG. 1B, the core nacelle 12 is generally supported upon a core engine case structure 46. A fan case structure 48 is defined about the core engine case structure 46 to support the fan nacelle 34. The core engine case structure 46 is secured to the fan case 48 through a multiple of circumferentially spaced radially extending fan exit guide vanes (FEGV) 50. The fan case structure 48, the core engine case structure 46, and the multiple of circumferentially spaced radially extending fan exit guide vanes 50 which extend therebetween is typically a complete unit often referred to as an intermediate case. It should be understood that the fan exit guide vanes 50 may be of various forms. The intermediate case structure in the disclosed embodiment includes a variable geometry fan exit guide vane (FEGV) system 36.

[0040] Thrust is a function of density, velocity, and area. One or more of these parameters can be manipulated to vary the amount and direction of thrust provided by the bypass flow B. A significant amount of thrust is provided by the bypass flow B due to the high bypass ratio. The fan section 20 of the engine 10 is nominally designed for a particular flight condition—typically cruise at 0.8M and 35,000 feet.

[0041] As the fan section 20 is efficiently designed at a particular fixed stagger angle for an efficient cruise condition, the FEGV system 36 and/or the FVAN 42 is operated to adjust fan bypass air flow such that the angle of attack or incidence of the fan blades is maintained close to the design incidence for efficient engine operation at other flight conditions, such as landing and takeoff. The FEGV system 36 and/or the FVAN 42 may be adjusted to selectively adjust the pressure ratio of the bypass flow B in response to a controller C. For example, increased mass flow during windmill or engine-out, and spoiling thrust at landing. Furthermore, the FEGV system 36 will facilitate and in some instances replace the FVAN 42, such as, for example, variable flow area is utilized to manage and optimize the fan operating lines which provides operability margin and allows the fan to be operated near peak efficiency which enables a low fan pressure-ratio and low fan tip speed design; and the variable area reduces noise by improving fan blade aerodynamics by varying blade incidence. The FEGV system 36 thereby provides optimized engine operation over a range of flight conditions with respect to performance and other operational parameters such as noise levels.

[0042] Referring to FIG. 2A, each fan exit guide vane 50 includes a respective airfoil portion 52 defined by an outer airfoil wall surface 54 between the leading edge 56 and a trailing edge 58. The outer airfoil wall 54 typically has a generally concave shaped portion forming a pressure side and a generally convex shaped portion forming a suction side. It should be understood that respective airfoil portion 52 defined by the outer airfoil wall surface 54 may be generally equivalent or separately tailored to optimize flow characteristics.

[0043] Each fan exit guide vane 50 is mounted about a vane longitudinal axis of rotation 60. The vane axis of rotation 60 is typically transverse to the engine axis A, or at an angle to engine axis A. It should be understood that various support struts 61 or other such members may be located through the